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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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Civic agency yet to float tender for 356 public toilets, including 100 'SHE' toilets, proposed a year ago

THE LOOS END

No clarity on functional public toilets in city

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YENA KWON/UNSPLASH

Bengaluru's yellow spots are here to stay, at least for a while.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) plan to construct 356 new public toilets including 100 'SHE' toilets across the city has hit a roadblock.

While the project, a part of the Union government's Swachh Bharat Mission Urban Initiative 2.0, was announced nearly a year ago, not even a single facility has seen the light of day.

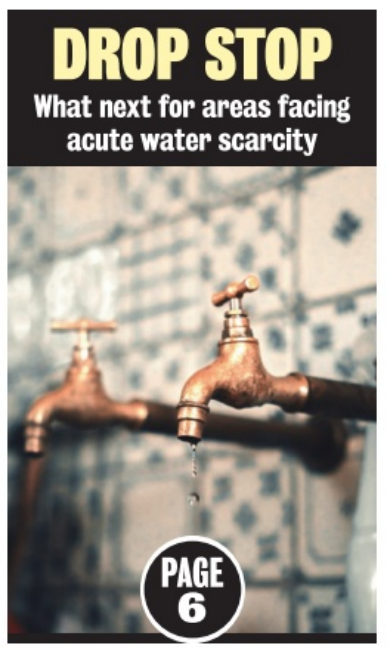
The plan appears to be far from being implemented as the civic agency has not even prepared tender documents for the project so far.

"The project is being re-evaluated as all the proposed toilet locations were planned at the edge of the roads, obstructing pedestrian movement. We have been instructed to prioritise pedestrian walkways and thus we are redesigning the project. Tender documents are being prepared and estimations are being made. We are processing the files and the tender for the project is expected to be floated within one month from now," said a senior BBMP official.

However, a source at the BBMP said before preparing the tender document,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> "Project is being re-evaluated as all proposed toilets were planned at the edge of roads obstructing pedestrian movement — BBMP official



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2 THINGS TO DO

01 Fest fun

Don't miss out on the chance to attend the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival 2023. The play 'Urmila' staging today is set to depict the story of Sita's sister, who was born to King Janaka of Mithila. Known for her calm, Urmila was married to Rama's brother, Lakshmana. Watch the artists perform as they bring Urmila's unparalleled sacrifice to life on stage. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: Today; 7:30 pm**

02 Artful fair

As Deepavali approaches, the Bengaluru Arts and Crafts Festival is set to welcome you with warm clothing, bed spreads, and varieties of hosiery. The variety of materials is so vast that it will cater to a large number of people of different tastes. Get your hands on arts and crafts made of intricate carvings by artisans. **Where: HSR Layout House Convention Centre; When: until November 5**

Your pet's vision matters

City veterinarians report rise in occurrence of glaucoma in cats and dogs; symptoms include pets having lot of tear production and them rubbing eyes

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The veterinarians are seeing an increase in the incidence of glaucoma in cats and dogs, with many pets even losing their vision as their owners neglect the issue. Often, the pets are brought in at a later stage, by which time they may have already lost their eyesight. Glaucoma is an increase in intraocular pressure. It is caused because aqueous humour (fluid in the eye) is not drained from the eye because of changes in the irido corneal angle or any damage to the trabecular meshwork. This retention of fluid causes high pressure in the eye.

The symptoms that the pet parents can notice are that the pets will have a lot of tear production and rub their eyes constantly due to irritation. The eyeball becomes bluish, the sclera (the white part around the eyeball) will become reddish, and eventually the eye will start bulging. Once such symptoms are noticed, pet parents are supposed to get their pets immediately treated, as if the condition is not recognised, the animal can lose its vision within 24-48 hours of time.

In one of the cases, a six-year-old cocker spaniel had a trauma injury to the eye with redness and teary eyes. However, the pet parents neglected it and only went to the veterinary doctor after three to four days when they saw it wasn't getting better. They decided to get it to the hospital for treatment, but it was too late. When tests were done to check the ocular pressure, it showed high, and despite the initial treatment of putting drops on it, it didn't get any better as the dog had already reached the end stage of glaucoma and lost its vision.

> **"Letting the dog have glaucoma condition would be very painful**
> – Dr Anirudh Ajjampur

Dr Anirudh Ajjampur, chief veterinary surgeon at RMV Multi-Specialty Veterinary Hospital, said, "Letting the dog have the same glaucoma condition would be very painful for the dog and would also result in frequent headache. The only option was to carry out the evisceration procedure, which involves the placement of an ocular prosthesis. Initially, the pet parents were very sceptical, but later they agreed when we explained to them that the dog might suffer from frequent headaches. After the procedure, the dog recovered fantastically in two weeks. And people who see the dog would not even know that it has an artificial eye."

Although glaucoma conditions could happen in any breed of dog. However, some that are more likely are cocker spaniel, great dane, beagle, Siberian husky, chihuahua, poodle, and others.

In another case, a cat was also found with the same condition of tears and redness in the eye; however, the pet parents brought her at an earlier stage, and the ocular pressure could be reduced. With the treatment, within 24-48 hours, the pressure had come down and vision had been restored.

Types of glaucoma

There are two types of glaucoma: primary and secondary. Primary glaucoma is congenital, hereditary, and secondary glaucoma that happens because of trauma, cataracts, lens luxation, infection or inflammation of the eyes, and various other reasons.

Vijay Karnataka celebrates 25 years of excellence

On a momentous occasion in the annals of journalism, Vijay Karnataka, the highest-read Kannada daily in the state, celebrated its silver jubilee with a grand event that left an indelible mark on the history of media and journalism. Thousands of enthusiastic readers flocked to the venue to extend their warm wishes to Vijay Karnataka on reaching this significant milestone.

The glittering programme commenced with an inaugural ceremony graced by esteemed guests, including former CM BS Yediyurappa, renowned writer and researcher Dr Hamp Nagarajaiah, MLC TA Sharavana, and Sandalwood actor Dhruva Sarja. The distinguished guests inaugurated the event by praising the journalism standards of VK and how it has been a trend-setter in the media field.

As part of the festivities, VK recognised the unsung heroes of the community with the VK Heroes felicitation. The event also featured a plethora of entertainment programmes, including a mesmerising magic show by Kudroli Ganesh, a 'talking doll' programme by the renowned ventriloquist Indushree, and a captivating Yakshagana performance by Ravichandra Kannadikatte on the theme Sudarshana Vijaya. The valedictory programme, held in the evening, welcomed Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi and Spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar as chief guests.

The day concluded on a high note with a music and fun session featuring a soulful musical performance by Naveen Sajju and Indu Nagaraj.

VK, sister concern of Bangalore Mirror, expressed gratitude to its readers, supporters, and the community at large for their unwavering encouragement over the past 25 years. The silver jubilee celebration not only marked a significant milestone for VK but also highlighted the enduring relationship between the media house and its readers. **— BMB**

(1) As part of the festivities, VK recognised the unsung heroes of the community with the VK Heroes felicitation; (2) inaugural ceremony graced former CM BS Yediyurappa; (3) valedictory programme welcomed Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and Spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravishankar; (4) the event featured 'talking doll' show by ventriloquist Indushree; (5) artists performing Yakshagana; (6) artists singing

Great plastic paradox

Dry Waste Collection Centres continue to witness sustained use of banned single-use plastics while seizures decline significantly

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BBMP seized 11,602 kilograms of plastic between January and May this year

Dry Waste Collection Centres in the city see no significant drop in banned Single-Use Plastic (SUP) items' usage. However, seizures of banned SUP items are trending substantially lower compared to 2022 or earlier this year.

According to plastic seizure data provided by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), while over 22,000 kilograms of banner plastic were seized between June and October 2022, only 3,408 kilograms have been recovered in the given period this year. BBMP seized 11,602 kilograms of plastic between January and May this year.

Officials say the number of cases of plastic seizure has gone down despite round-the-clock vigilance. However, they agree that SUPs are still very much in circulation.

"The amount of banned plastic items being seized has gone down over the last six months or so. This is because the offenders have been more cautious in bringing in and handing out the items more carefully. We are fining shops as well as vendors in possession of banner SUPs. However, it is probably time we start looking at finding the customers, too. So far, we have not taken the step to avoid backlash," said a BBMP official from the Solid Waste Management Department.

Agreed Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, a volunteer group pushing for a plastic-free and clean city.

> **"The amount of banned plastic items being seized has gone down. This is because the offenders have been more cautious in bringing in and handing out the items** –a BBMP official

"Customers can play a huge role by not just carrying their bags but also influencing vendors to shift, giving them newspapers or paper bags from online deliveries. Vendors spend on plastic bags today, so shifting is a saving for them," said Katrak.

BBMP says its marshals are still spreading awareness about the centre's and state government's ban on plastic items.

Starting July 1, as many as 19 SUP items will be banned. Anyone caught using, selling, manufacturing, distributing, importing, or stocking these products can be penalized.

These items include earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice cream sticks, thermocol for decoration, plastic plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, PVC banners less than 100 micron and stirrers.

However, most of the shops across various city markets are still using one or more of these items rampantly.

"The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) is the legal authority that is supposed to enforce the ban and stop the supply of banned items to the city. Only when the supply stops circulation will go down. Trucks from Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are still coming into the city during odd hours with banner items stalked under a different good. This supply chain has to be broken, which is a law and order problem and beyond BBMP's control," added the official.

Amidst rampant use of banned SUPs , experts say it is possible to get back to pre-COVID levels when plastic was clearly on its way out. This can be achieved by changing customer behaviour through awareness and campaigns."Where there is repeat messaging on resident groups, more people carry their bags. A simple strategy such as all vendors at the same time shift to the model of carry your bag or pay for a bag' will work. Vendors can source cloth bags at wholesale rates, so there is an incentive for vendors to shift as well. This could just be the combined strategy to turn the tide on plastic bags," added Kartrak.

Pub brawl: ASI accused of assault

An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) stationed at the Magadi Police Station faces charges after allegedly using a machete to assault two men, Shashidhara and Dayananda, on October 25 at RPC Layout in Vijayanagara. The accused, Srinivas, was caught on CCTV cameras assaulting the two men at a local pub.

Hours before the attack, the victims, Dayananda and Shashidhara, had been socialising at a pub when a dispute erupted involving the victims and Anand, the son of Srinivas's older brother. Anand, who also worked as an auto-rickshaw driver and lived nearby, offered to provide transportation for Dayananda and Shashidhara in his auto-rickshaw.

Allegedly, Anand informed his uncle, Srinivas, that the victims were suspected robbers as he stopped the autorickshaw in front of his residence. Without warning, Srinivas reportedly assaulted the two men with a machete.

The altercation was eventually intervened by patrolling officers from the Vijayanagara Hoysala police. Both victims sustained injuries and were promptly taken to a hospital for medical attention. Subsequently, on October 27, the victims filed a formal complaint against Anand and Srinivas at the Vijayanagara Police Station.

–BMB

Tragic student suicides shake PES University

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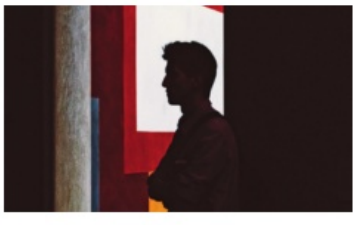

In a deeply distressing incident, another student from PES University has taken his own life by leaping from the college building at the Electronic City campus. The victim has been identified as third-year student Surya M. Achar.

This incident follows the suicide of Aditya Prabhu, who tragically ended his life on his birthday on July 17 and who had reportedly been caught with a mobile phone in the examination hall.

The recent suicide came to public attention when social worker Dushyant Dubey shared on Platform X that Aditya's tragic death was not an isolated incident.

"None of the faculty involved with Aditya's death were suspended. To those silent on Aditya's death, this is what your silence has led to. When we as a society don't rise and react in our complacency, this is what happens. We are all guilty of not doing enough," he tweeted. He also informed BM that the reason behind the suicide has not been determined yet.

"No. We are yet to have a proper conversation with the family," said Dubey. The police also said that the incident was reported on October 27, and they are still investigating the matter.

In recent months, several instances of students committing suicide on campus have come to light. BM spoke to psychologists to understand the reason behind it.

Sheetal Lakhani, a clinical psychologist, says that the environment of moral policing in colleges or looking at bad behaviour as "bad" and not as a cry for help is a dangerous pattern.

"I think the solution lies in thinking about the policies on what to do about cheating. Strict rules are indeed required to deal with the problem so that the discipline of the college is maintained. But the purpose of such rules should be considered. One should not be degrading and insulting the child. There is a need to pay close attention as a teacher; what are you responding to? Are you responding to make sure that the child feels guilty and worthless, or are you responding to a rule that wasn't followed," she said.

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BMTC's last-mile leap: 300 metro feeder buses

Commuters across city express concerns over limited last-mile connectivity, urging government to explore, implement cost-effective shared auto services

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Currently, BMTC operates 5,596 schedules, covering 57,463 trips, spanning 11.37 lakh km, with an average of 43 lakh passengers travelling daily. BMTC operates within and 25 km beyond BBMP jurisdiction areas

With an increasing demand for Metro train services, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has unveiled plans to expand Metro feeder services to 300. In response to the growing need for improved last-mile connectivity, BMTC intends to introduce 9-meter-long buses for use as feeder services.

A senior BMTC official stated, "We intend to brand the nine-meter midi metro feeder buses uniquely. Currently, we provide 9-meter non-AC 120 electric buses for use on metro feeder lines as part of the national clean air initiative. In addition to the 121 metro transports currently in operation, we will introduce 179 extra buses by the end of April 2024, thereby taking the total number of feeder services to 300."

Currently, BMTC operates 5,596 schedules, covering 57,463 trips, spanning 11.37 lakh km, with an average of 43 lakh passengers travelling daily. BMTC operates within and 25 km beyond BBMP jurisdiction areas. "With the Metro network expanding to 73.81 kilometres, there is a growing demand to provide metro rail passengers with first and last-mile connections.

Hence, BMTC is running metro feeder services. For the convenience of metro passengers, 121 schedules are currently operating a total of 1,874 metro feeder trips on 30 routes from different metro stations in the city. Now, we have introduced two MF-21 routes through 44 trips, starting from BTM Layout to Banashankari. In the future, BMTC plans to expand the Metro feeder services," added an official.

However, commuters argue that this is not enough. "It is good that BMTC is operating a feeder service. However, we know the feeder services operate only on main roads, and people may have to walk a few kilometres inside to reach their homes. If we depend on autos or cabs, it costs a bomb.

Sometimes, we feel that it is not feasible to use services like Metro if there is no last-mile connectivity as we end up paying more to reach home to Metro station and vice versa. So, it is high time the government should look at providing shared auto services so that it is economical for the commuters and beneficial for the auto drivers," said Radha Aradhya, a resident of Peenya. Girish Shetty, a resident of Konanakunte, said, "Currently, there is no provision for shared auto services. The auto can accommodate only three commuters, and if a shared auto facility is made, there could be misuse of the services as they can try to rope in more customers than its capacity.

> **"In addition to the 121 metro transports currently in operation, we will introduce 179 extra buses by the end of April 2024**– A Senior BMTC official

So, the government should look at the practice followed in some small cities like Dehradun, where there are local autos that are wider than the Bengaluru autos and can accommodate a few more passengers. The regulation of passengers should be made by the transport and police department so that the autos don't carry too many people. If these practices are in place, then it will be beneficial for the commuters as they need not pay too much. The government can also look at promoting electric autos so that it is environmentally friendly."

SHE toilets plan hits roadblock

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some hiccups have to be resolved. Currently, the public toilets are being maintained by BBMP's zonal officers and there is no clarity on the total number of functional public toilets in the city.

"Public toilets in the city are being operated and maintained through third-party contracts; there are no standard protocols in place. Contractors keep changing every few months; there is no accountability or standardisation in fee collection for using the facility. While BBMP plans to allot public toilet contracts through the tender process, there are a few hurdles along the way. Associations such as Safai Karamchari Develop-ment Association and pourakarmikas have been demanding that the contracts for the operation and maintenance of public toilets be given to them. Unless these aspects are addressed, BBMP will not be able to move ahead," said an official.

Civic experts have been stressing that Bengaluru is turning into a yellow spot and why BBMP must get started with the construction of these 356 public toilets immediately. According to the data from the solid waste management (SWM) department of the BBMP, Bengaluru currently has 803 public toilets but no clarity on how many of these facilities are functional. Moreover, going by Swachh Bharat Mission standards, the city requires a minimum of 1,300 functional toilets.

"The proposed public toilets are much needed. Bengaluru, after turning into a garbage city, has now become a city of yellow spots. As per standards set by the Swachh Bharat Mission, while there should be one toilet for every 100 men, at least two toilets should be available for every 100 women.

Although the SWM department talks about 803 public toilets in the city, many are not functional. The actual number of public toilets available to Bengalureans is much lower," said Manjunatha Hampapura L of Janaagraha, a city based not-for-profit organisation.

Jeevan Bhima Nagar public toilet conundrum: Locked, unlit, unusable

When Krishna B, a wheelchair user and a resident of Jeevan Bhima Nagar, wanted to use a public toilet on his way back home, he found the lone public toilet in the area for persons with disabilities kept locked. There was no one manning the toilet, and Krishna had to look for a toilet elsewhere. "The toilet was constructed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) a few months ago, and while it is fairly clean and has a ramp for wheelchair users, it is mostly kept under lock and key. Even when it is open occasionally, there are no caretakers, and it becomes difficult for people like me to use the facility," said Krishna. Locals say in the absence of any other public toilet in the area, people urinating in the open is a common sight. This has led to unhygienic conditions. The main road along the market area turns into a public toilet every evening, causing the stretch to stink. "This stretch is filled with people during the evening hours. With so much traffic and no public toilet, people urinating in public is a common sight. This has led to smelly streets and unhygienic conditions," said Abraham, another resident of the area. — BMB

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Liquid lament

Whitefield

Drainage water overflowing on the road in front of schools and residences due to the construction of buildings and blockage of drainage in Shankarappa layout, ECC road, Whitefield.

Trash takeover

Austin town

The entrance of Bettappa Garden is covered in trash. Urgent action is needed to preserve the park.

Footpath crisis

Nandini Layout

Bengaluru building bylaws violated as houses lack set-back. The commercial building's first floor extends over a footpath near Jai Maruthi Nagar Circle, Nandini Layout.

Bid by bid, tree census to get further delayed

Only 1 bidder reaches out after BBMP issues 8 tenders, so process likely to take more time

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Wait for Bengaluru's tree census is set to get longer as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has landed in a single bid situation after floating tenders a few days ago. The Forest Department of BBMP plans to issue fresh tenders soon.

"We had issued eight tenders, one for each zone of BBMP. However, we received only two bids in response. Both the bids are from the same person and so we have landed in a single bid situation," said BLG Swamy, DCF, forest department, BBMP.

The civic agency, after a delay of nearly four years since a High Court order, had finally set the ball rolling early this month for the tree census and floated tender for enumeration of an estimated 20.8 lakh trees in the city, spread over 9,761.6 sq km.

The funds for the project, expected to be completed within six months, was set at a little over Rs 3.74 crore. Bengaluru was divided into eight zones of around 1,000 sq km area each, and separate tenders issued.

Environmentalists say BBMP should put end the inordinate delay and tweak the tender's terms and conditions to favour the greater good.

"There are known and experienced agencies that have done this job and BBMP should look at getting the right organisation to execute it. The census has already been delayed and should be taken up urgently. BBMP should not wait for bids to be submitted and approach the right agency to carry out such work," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

The civic agency's decision to float a tender for the project implies that research institutes such as the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST) and the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK) will not make the grade for the project.

However, experts highlight that the idea behind conducting the census is to not only provide the count of trees in Bengaluru but also other information such as type of tree species, crown spread, growth rate given the soil condition, and so on. They say a science-based census by a research institute is the basic requirement.

"Technical expertise is a must in executing this project if we need a comprehensive analysis. A research institute has a process in place. Such activities are thoroughly verified by the research committee and thus the quality of work is ensured. This will also ensure accountability," said C Nagarajaiah, professor and ex-head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK), Bengaluru.

As per BBMP, the census will deviate a bit from the full-fledged process as demanded by environmentalists and tree experts in the past. It will focus on the number of trees in the city and will document only five parameters - girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, and photographs - of each tree.

Experts say such enumeration can happen along the lines of the 'kere, hasiru mitra' initiative.

"If it is just about getting to know tree species and counting them, BBMP can bring volunteers and students from colleges and schools in respective zones. Colleges have botany departments and a professor can help students identify tree species. BBMP does not require a Rs 4 crore budget for such work," said Vijay Nishant, founder, Project Vruksha.

ED hot on heels of illegal betting apps; raids continue

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has seized Rs 46.5 lakh "unaccounted" cash after it carried out raids in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra as part of an investigation against some illegal betting apps.

The searches were launched on Friday and locations in Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Hubballi (Karnataka) and Mumbai were covered.

The ED case stems from an FIR of Madhya Pradesh Police filed against the operations of illegal online betting applications, the central agency said in a statement.

Illegal online betting apps such as Dhangames and other 'satta matka' (betting) apps were being operated in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and other parts of the country to lure unsuspecting masses, it said.

The illegal online betting apps allowed users to register via a mobile number and transfer money to Dhangames wallet via UPI and indulge in betting.

The ED alleged that illegal money generated through these apps were laundered through a web of bogus bank accounts opened by a person named Lokesh Verma in the names of dummy persons by misusing their KYC documents to run the betting operations.

"The proceeds of crime generated from betting operations in the benami bank accounts were laundered and utilised for buying immovable properties," it said. **PTI**

Hampi has a fake guide problem

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The next time you visit the UNESCO World Heritage site at Hampi, ensure that you employ the services of a recognised guide, as there have been complaints of tourists hiring a 'fake guide' and then getting trapped by them. On Friday, a woman lodged a complaint with the tourism department, stating, "When we visited Hampi, we were approached by a person who claimed to be a guide. Unsuspecting, we hired him, but he started misbehaving and even manhandled me. I took him to the nearby tourism office without any help. The culprit was drunk. I request the higher authorities to take strong action, as these kinds of incidents will bring bad name to Hampi."

"Instead of choosing random people as guides, tourists must visit the local tourism office, which will help them choose or they can see the list of guides on the website

When contacted, Tourism Department's Deputy Director Prabhulinga Talekeri said, "We have indeed received a complaint from one of the tourists and handed over the complaint to the police to act. In fact, this is not the first time we are receiving a complaint against the accused, as there was one allegation earlier too."

Swamy said that tourists need to be extremely careful while hiring a guide. "Instead of choosing random people as guides, they need to visit the local tourism office, which will help them in choosing the right guide. Or they can go to the website where there will be a list of guides who are recognised, and choose only such guides."

Reacting to this, Vishwanath Malagi, president of Guides Association, Hampi, said that due to these kinds of incidents, the officially certified guides are facing a problem. "We had requested the officials to take action against fake guides who were not only bringing bad repute to Hampi but also robbing us of our livelihood. We hope the tourism department officials wake up and take strict action against the fake guide menace."

Sandya Kamat, a tourist, said that hiring a local guide can be helpful in more ways than one.

"While the guides get their livelihood if the tourists use their services, the tourist gets the required information. However, how to identify a local guide? If you happen to visit most of the tourist places, you will find people moving here and there claiming to be guides. While some of them display identity cards, some don't.

Even if they are sporting an identity card, how to verify whether the identity card is genuine or not? Like pre-paid autos where the officials regulate the service, there is a need for such service to be monitored by the tourism department. These kinds of services will help the tourists so that they don't get harassed. Even if there are a few certified guides who cheat the tourists, then based on complaints, such guides can be blacklisted. I think it is high time the officials act on this."

EVEREST HERO

My self Nikhil Surender born and brought up from Bengaluru, But right now I am running my business n Hyderabad, I am a YouTuber my channel called as Travellers Backpacker, I have summited Everest Base Camp on two mission Travel Tribute to Dr.Puneeth Rajkumar Sir and Friendship through tourism and I have placed momentum of Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar sir in Everest Base Camp for his fantastic help for the education OF poor kids and many I will be first person to travel tribute Dr.Puneeth Rajkumar sir at the height of 5380M. I Hold world record of hoisting Indian National Flag on top 5375 M From the top Everest base Camp Rock and I did shake hand between India And Nepal for strong tourism friendship.

THE SUNDAY READ

Bengaluru is not making every drop count

Rock bottom

As groundwater level dips in Whitefield, residents of area report massive borewell problem

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Borewells are drying up and citizens are having to use water tankers for their daily needs

Residents of Whitefield have been observing a considerable drop in the groundwater level in their area over the past few months. They have claimed that in the area many borewells have gone dry this year and they are now heavily dependent on water tankers to meet their everyday needs.

"I have a house in White Rose Layout, which was recently raided by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for multiple illegal buildings. We dug a borewell nearly five years ago for domestic consumption. It was yielding water up until the last few months ago but has now gone completely dry. Many residents in this layout and nearby areas are facing a similar situation," said a resident.

Locals allege the shortage is due to hundreds of illegal borewells that have mushroomed to sustain hundreds of commercial establishments. According to the Karnataka Groundwater Regulation Act, no person shall, without obtaining permission from the appropriate authority, sink a well for any purpose within the area of an over-exploited watershed.

However, residents allege that a majority of the borewells that have been dug in the past and are still being dug have no permission from the Karnataka Ground Water Authority (KGWA).

"My neighbour, who has constructed a six-storied building, has dug three borewells on his property. My borewells went dry after they decided to dig multiple wells to sustain hundreds of people living in their building," another resident complained. Locals allege that many in the area have been drilling multiple borewells.

"We dug up our borewell over five years ago. Before digging it, we submitted an application form to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). We were told that the application would be processed and sent to KGWA for an NOC. We were expecting an acknowledgment but we have not heard back from any of the agencies," said another resident of the area.

Residents say the groundwater level is dipping further with every new borewell being dug. Moreover, the water quality has also deteriorated a lot.

"Up until a couple of years ago, water was available at a depth of around 800 feet. Now, people are digging borewells as deep as 1,800 feet. Our borewell never ran dry over the last four years, but this year, it stopped yielding water completely. We are getting water through water tankers and spending nearly Rs 8,000 per month. We have a TDS meter at home and we have found the TDS level to be very high in groundwater samples," said another resident.

Civic activists in the area claim many buildings in the area that violate the building laws, are also violating groundwater extraction rules. While a majority of the borewells are dug without any permission, those with permission to dig the borewells for domestic usage are now using them commercially, leading to over-exploitation.

"There are some sites with nine borewells. Many PG establishments have more than 200 occupants living in a single building with multiple borewells dug on their properties. No NOC has been issued by KGWB. As per the procedure, BWSSB, after receiving applications for domestic borewells, has to send them to KGWA, the authority responsible for issuing permission. However, despite gross violation of the rules and over-exploitation of groundwater, KGWA has kept mum," said Sandeep Anirudhan, a civic activist in the area.

> **"Up until a couple of years ago, water was available at a depth of around 800 feet. Now, people are digging borewells as deep as 1,800 feet**
>
> –A Whitefield resident

Lifeline snapped: BWSSB cuts off community water tap

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Right to clean water is a fundamental right. The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), as per its vision statement, has to provide drinking water of unquestionable quality in sufficient quantity. But, if the acute shortage of drinking water for around 100 residents at Kallahalli is anything to go by, it seems the BWSSB has forgotten about its vision statement.

The residents living at quarters constructed by Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) are compelled to depend on irregular supply of borewell water for more than one month now. All these years, there was no shortage of Cauvery water for these families, thanks to a community water tap installed by the BWSSB more than three decades ago. "We were allotted residential quarters in 1987. We did not face any problems all these years, but our troubles began more than a month ago," said a resident on the condition of anonymity.

Manjula Ramesh, who works as a domestic help, said that they did not have enough water to clean their home when one of their family members passed away recently. "I had to shift to a rented house as there is no water supply in our own quarters at the D Block that is called Dr Ambedkar Colony. I hope the BWSSB restores the community water tap for all who still live there," said Manjula Ramesh.

Expressing concern over the removal of the community water tap, Srinivas Murthy, a resident, said that the BWSSB engineer disconnected the supply without informing the residents.

It is said that residential quarters at the D Block have no water sump. They said that they could not afford to engage a private water tanker as they do not have a water storing facility. "Most of the families residing here are poor. The BWSSB has to facilitate them to get individual water supply connections. They should allow the residents of other blocks to clear the arrears of water bills in instalments. Every citizen has the right to have water," said P Kalidas Reddy, a resident who lodged a complaint with Karnataka State Human Rights Commission against the BWSSB for removing the water tap.

When contacted, BWSSB assistant executive engineer Dhanwan said that the community water tap was removed as per the BWSSB's policy. "We have been demanding that the residents who reside at other Blocks clear the arrears of water bills but in vain. Arrears worth lakhs of rupees are pending from the residents," the assistant executive engineer said.

Residents of Kalahalli drawing drinking water from a tap installed on another road

Alert: Act upon signs of potential strokes

Health experts emphasise risk of stroke among citizens; say snoring can indicate serious underlying health condition

A 34-year-old techie from the city noticed a tingling sensation on the right half of her body. She soon realised that she was unable to speak and couldn't explain the situation to her roommates. Realising that something was amiss, her roommates quickly rushed her to the hospital, where she exhibited all the symptoms and signs of developing a stroke. An MRI scan revealed an impending stroke where the main artery supplying blood to the speech and language centres on the left side of the brain, called the Middle Cerebral Artery (MCA), was blocked, with no flow forward to the speech area, which is a vital area. Thanks to timely surgery, the patient survived. Doctors say that in this case, the 34-year-old techie survived because her health condition was quickly identified and treated; otherwise, she would have been either paralysed or even dead. Overall, one in four people is at risk of a stroke in their lifetime, but by taking simple steps, almost all strokes can be prevented.

Empowering MBBS doctors for mental health care

With the rise in stroke and other neurological cases, the Karnataka government is planning to train MBBS doctors at primary health centres to diagnose and counsel patients with mental health needs. City doctors say that neurological disorders contribute to almost 70% of the burden of disability in childhood and could threaten the development of our country.

A health official said, "Mental health issues and non-communicable diseases are on the rise due to current food habits, lifestyles, and sleep patterns. Neurological disorders contribute to almost 70% of the burden of disability in childhood. Hence, NIMHANS will act as a hub, and the primary health centres in all districts will act as spokes to work together to address the increasing mental health issues."

Connection between snoring and stroke

Don't neglect snoring. Snoring can be annoying for others, while the person snoring may be ignorant or tend to neglect it. However, health professionals say that if the snoring issue is not treated earlier, it can also lead to a stroke. A health professional said, "Snoring is commonly disregarded despite affecting people of all ages. Unfortunately, it carries a stigma, and its significance is often underestimated. However, snoring can be more than just a nuisance; it can indicate a serious underlying health condition. Loud snoring suggests a blockage in the upper airways during sleep, which may be a symptom of a sleep disorder like Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)."

Ignoring the signs of snoring can lead to various health issues, including reduced quality of life, and even serious medical conditions such as uncontrolled high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, irregular heartbeats, and road traffic accidents, they added.

30-minute solution to reduce stroke risk

According to world-stroke.org, just 30 minutes of exercise five times a week can reduce your risk of stroke by 25%. Exercise plays an important role in reducing several stroke risk factors, including hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, depression, and stress.

–Prakash VL

Weather update: Uptick in infections

Bengaluru's weather is quite unpredictable these days. The daytime temperature on Friday touched 30.8 degrees Celsius, which was three degrees Celsius above normal, while the nighttime temperature was 20.7 degrees Celsius, which was a few degrees Celsius below normal.

City doctors say that the fluctuation in the temperature is resulting in allergic pharyngitis or some benign virus circulating, causing the throat infection.

A health professional said, "Due to frequent weather alterations, our system is vulnerable to seasonal allergies such as throat infections; the conditions are highly susceptible to spreading the infection quickly for all age groups, but more so among children and senior citizens. There was a steady increase of about three to four per cent compared to last year. Since these infections are highly contagious, do watch out for symptoms like difficulty swallowing, cough, sore throat, runny nose, and, in some cases, loose stool and vomiting."

Of late, experts are seeing quite a number of patients coming to OPD with symptoms of fever, throat pain, cold, and cough. This is seen, especially when the outside temperature fluctuates, and is associated with rainfall as well.

Another health professional added, "We found that in most of these patients, blood reports are normal, indicating that it is of viral etiology."

–BMB

Advt

GOLDEN HOUR OF STROKE MANAGEMENT:

Time is of the essence in preventing related death and disabilities

Every year, the 29th of October, is observed as World Stroke Day to raise awareness about its warning signs and the importance of seeking timely medical help to prevent related death, paralysis and other disabilities.

Nearly 20 million people are affected by stroke globally, out of which 5 million die and the remaining live with various disabilities. 1 in 4 people above the age of 25 develop stroke in their lifetime. In India, nearly 1,85,000 strokes are reported every year.

Brain stroke occurs when the blood flow to a particular part of the brain is decreased or stopped due to blockage of the blood tubes (called ischemic stroke- amounting to 80-85% of all brain strokes) or due to rupture of blood tubes (called hemorrhagic strokes). Stroke can permanently damage brain cells, leading to permanent loss of functions in various parts of the body controlled by that affected area of the brain.

Many people are not aware of how to recognize the signs of a stroke, and sometimes, stroke patients don't seek medical help quickly enough. This delay can make it harder for them to get the best treatment available. The symptom of stroke depends on the part of the brain that is involved, the most common being the weakness of one part of the body, face drooping to one side, altered sensation, difficulty speaking, vision problem and altered consciousness. Other symptoms may include altered behaviour, acute headache, seizures, etc

Nearly 80% of strokes are preventable by proper control of risk factors. The most common risk factors are age above 60 years, uncontrolled high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, frequent alcohol consumption, smoking, obesity and different types of heart diseases. Among these, high blood pressure is the most important risk factor. Even a reduction of 2-5 mm of blood pressure can significantly reduce the incidence of stroke.

The most important part of treatment is seeking medical help as soon as possible because the clot-dissolving medication works most effectively when given within 4.5 hours of the first stroke symptom. This time is called the "Golden Hour of Stroke." However, there is still a chance for preventing permanent brain damage with another procedure called mechanical thrombectomy when done within 24 hours of the symptom onset. Unfortunately, very few stroke-affected patients in India get these treatments due to reasons like not knowing the stroke symptoms, not having the right hospitals nearby, and not having enough trained medical staff to recognize and treat strokes.

Most major cities in India now have facilities to manage stroke efficiently, but the need of the hour is to create proper awareness in the public and manage the other logistics. The setting up of stroke units in hospitals and stroke-ready hospitals has improved how strokes are treated. At present, there is also poor patient awareness of stroke rehabilitation right after the first treatment. Stroke rehabilitation is vital for helping patients relearn skills they lost due to the stroke, regain independence, and improve their quality of life. It aids in restoring movement, speech, and cognitive abilities, promoting a faster and more effective recovery.

Dr. Sreekanta Swamy
Lead Senior Consultant
- Neurology

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

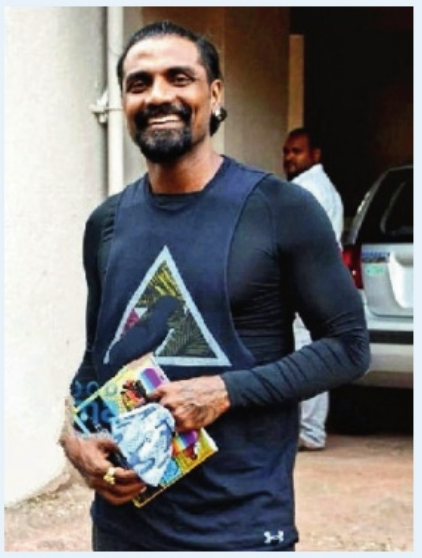
PEACEFUL VIBE

A pleasant sight on top of hills

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Ashwini Mehra**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?



Remo D'Souza, one of the most popular choreographers in India, was born in Bengaluru. He is known to have judged popular TV shows such as Dance India Dance (DID), Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, and more. He is also a director who made Bollywood movies such as F.A.L.T.U., ABCD:Any Body Can Dance, A Flying Jatt, and more. He completed his 12th grade in Jamnagar, Gujarat. He is considered a role model for many dance enthusiasts and has choreographed many Bollywood songs for various hit movies, including Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani and Bajirao Mastani.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

Wrap this up soon, please

Halt in construction of Abbigere Lakshmipura Main Road bridge is causing problems to citizens

The construction of the Abbigere Lakshmipura Main Road bridge, which was meant to be an important developmental project, has been halted abruptly. This has caused severe inconvenience to the residents of the area. The construction was stopped before the state elections and resumed a while ago. However, it has stopped for the past two months with no signs of progress.

The halt in bridge construction has led to various problems. The pipe near the bridge is closed, which causes the rainwater to overflow into the nearby residences. The drain in the area also remains blocked due to the accumulation of garbage, which results in the stagnation of water and the breeding of mosquitoes. Even after numerous complaints to the BBMP officials and SWD engineers, there has been no action taken in order to resolve the matter. Their pleas seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

The pipe near the bridge is closed, which causes the rainwater to overflow

Vinoda Nanda, the president of the Prakruti Residential Welfare Association, said, "About 10 to 15 metre of the bridge work has come to a standstill, and the stench from the drain is unbearable. When the rajakaluve overflows, there is a 2-3 feet water stagnation that lasts for about 4–5 hours. We cannot walk or ride on the road until the water recedes. The situation has become intolerable."

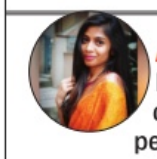
The residents and members of the Prakruti Residential Welfare Association have been regularly engaging with the BBMP officials to tell them about the gravity of the situation and how their daily lives are being disturbed. However, the lack of action from the authorities has left the residents frustrated.

As the bridge construction remains neglected, the residents of Abbigere are left to struggle with unsanitary conditions and a deteriorating quality of life. — **Sanjana Rao**

TAPTHECHATTER

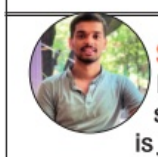
where Bengalureans speak their mind

What do you enjoy most about living in Bengaluru?



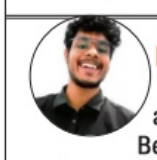
Anshu Mishra, BM Reader
I love Bengaluru for its vibrant culture, diverse community, and perfect weather. Above all, my immense love for the city is for its food. You name it, and I can take you to a street that serves the best of it.

Rahul Bogase, BM Reader
Bengaluru is a tapestry of dreams and diversity. Despite traffic grumbles, it's cherished for its pleasant climate and abundant opportunities. From startups to heritage, it's where modernity dances with tradition.

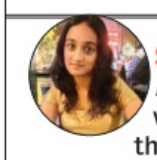


Sumedha S Adiga, BM Reader
Living in Namma Bengaluru is superb. Anything and everything is just a walk away. Chilling out at addas, food hopping at any time of the day, night rides with friends, relaxing evenings at the park bench, and drinking coffee.

Sai Pranav, BM Reader
Keeping unpredictable traffic and the unavailability of autos aside, the one focal point that brings Bengaluru together is its people. We are a cultural stronghold, making it not just a city to reckon with but an emotion in its own way.



Kiran S, BM Reader
Three things I like about Bengaluru are: the greenery in South Bengaluru; the people who are always ready to help anyone; and the chaat places, which are just what you need at 7 pm after you are done with work.



Smrithi R, BM Reader
A typical Bengalurean answer would be the weather. But also, I think the diverse cuisine available in the city is something I enjoy a lot. Be it a craving for Bharjari oota, Chinese, or Italian, every cuisine is available here.

SPEAK TO US

How would you describe the overall quality of life in Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Turmeric is a very effective wound healer and can even help in prevention of Alzheimer's disease

Vitamin C in lemon improves overall immunity, oral health and also helps to cleanse the body's toxic wastes

BangaloreMirror 9
Sunday, October 29, 2023
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Have a scrumptious Halloween

Treat you said? Treat it is then, with these yummy celebratory dishes

SPOOKY DEVILED EGG

Prep Time: 20 mins
Portion size (Including refrigerating): 2 Hours
Serves 6

INGREDIENTS
- 12 hard- boiled eggs, unpeeled
- 6 drops of blue food colour
- 6 Tsp Duke's Mayonnaise
- 3 drops of green food colour
- 2 tsp of yellow mustard
- 2 tsp white vinegar
- Salt to taste
- Black sesame seeds (optional)

METHOD
- In a sizable bowl, combine water with blue dye
- Using a spoon, lightly tap the hard-cooked eggs to crack their shells but ensure the shell remains on
- Submerge the eggs with cracked surfaces into the dyed water and chill in the fridge for a minimum of 2 hours
- After refrigeration, gently strip the shells off the eggs and slice each egg vertically in half
- Extract the yolk from the halves and place them in a separate container
- Retain the whites for later
- Thoroughly blend the extracted yolks with mayo, mustard, vinegar, and a hint of green colouring. Once blended, fill the egg white halves with this yolk blend
- Sprinkle atop with black sesame for garnish.

ROSEMARY ROAST LEG OF LAMB

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 kg leg of lamb
- 100 grams rosemary
- 50 grams garlic cloves
- 200 grams pineapple
- 100 ml olive oil
- 200 grams large onion
- 200 grams carrot
- 100 grams leeks
- 50 grams celery
- 50 grams black pepper
- 50 grams salt

Prep Time: 10 mins
Cooking Time: 45 minutes
Serves 5-6

METHOD:
- Preheat the oven up to 150°C (300°F).
- Use a keen blade to create 5 cm deep cuts in the lamb. Liberally sprinkle salt and pepper on the lamb, and drizzle pineapple juice over it to enhance its tenderness.
- Take a broad vessel and immerse the lamb leg in a mixture of diced rosemary, garlic slivers, leeks, and celery, along with salt and pepper. Coat the lamb with olive oil and allow it to soak in this marinade inside the refrigerator for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- Position the soaked lamb on a bed of onion and carrot slices in a roasting tray. Bake in your already warmed oven for about 45 minutes.
- After baking, extract the lamb, encase it in aluminum foil, and give it a 15-minute relaxation period before slicing.
- Combine the aromatic lamb drippings and onion remnants from the tray to whip up a savoury sauce to accompany the lamb.
- Present your roasted lamb leg drizzled with the sauce, sided by any desired accompaniments. Relish your succulent roast!

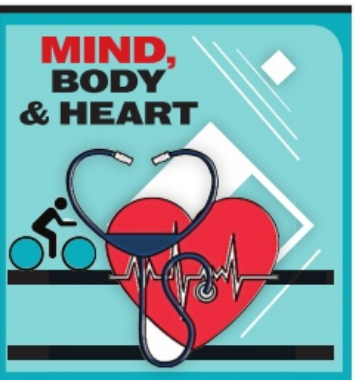
PUMPKIN PIE

INGREDIENTS:
- 750 grams pumpkin, peeled, deseeded, and cut into chunks
- 350 grams caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon icing sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 pie crust

Prep Time: 10 mins
Cooking Time: 45 mins
Serves 6

METHOD:
- Take the pumpkin pieces and put them in a sizable pot. Fill the pot with water until the pumpkin is submerged, then set it to boil. Once boiling, reduce the heat, cover, and let it simmer for around 15 minutes or until the pumpkin softens. After that, drain and let the pumpkin cool
- Set your oven to warm up to 180°C (350°F)
- In a bowl, blend together the mashed pumpkin, eggs, cinnamon, fine sugar, nutmeg, and a pinch of salt until you get a consistent texture
- Transfer this blended mixture into a pie shell and put it into the oven, allowing it to bake for 15 minutes
- After the initial 15 minutes, lower the oven's temperature to 150°C (300°F) and let it bake for another half an hour
- When the pie's crust turns a lovely golden hue, take it out of the oven and set it aside to cool
- For a final touch, dust a bit of powdered sugar on its surface
- Slice, serve, and savour your homemade pumpkin pie masterpiece!

Recipes by Chef Gaurav Paul – Executive Chef Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks



All you need to know about...

How covid affects brain

Central nervous system under attack
In a first, researchers have demonstrated that different variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind Covid-19, have the ability to infect the central nervous system.

Axons affected
The study, conducted in an animal model and published in the journal Nature Communications, confirms that SARS-CoV-2 is capable of infecting human neurons in vitro and migrating into axons -- the nerve cell projections that carry information.

During acute phase
In the study, researchers from the Institut Pasteur and Universite Paris Cite in France demonstrated that the original strain of the virus first detected in Wuhan and the Gamma, Delta and Omicron/BA.1 variants can enter the central nervous system and remain there during the acute phase of the infection.

Spreading across
The researchers observed that all these variants spread to the central nervous system and infect the olfactory bulb, a structure located in the cranial cavity that processes olfactory information before transmitting it to the cortex.

Olfactory bulb
"We demonstrated that infection of the olfactory bulb is common to all variants and not linked to any particular one, nor to any clinical manifestation such as anosmia (loss of smell)," explained first author Guilherme Dias de Melo, researcher in the Institut Pasteur's Lyssavirus, Epidemiology and Neuropathology Unit. The researchers found that, once inside the neuron, the virus is able to move in both directions along the axon, either in an anterograde direction, i.e. from the cell body to the axon terminals, or in a retrograde direction, from the axons to the cell body.

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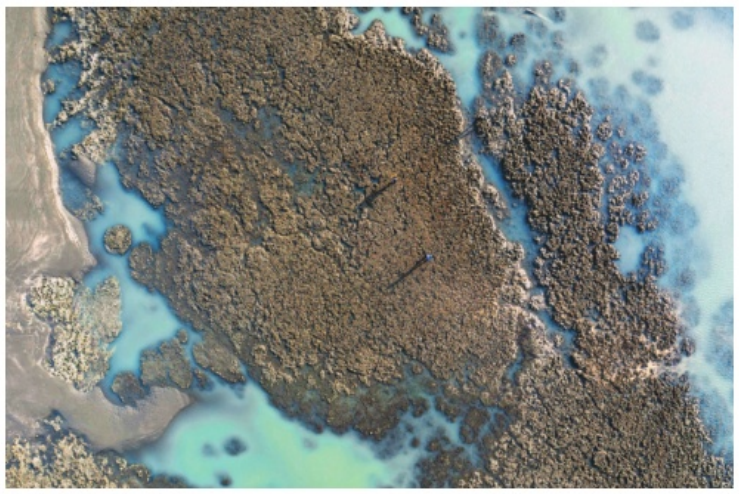
Birds-eye view into the green

NASA-ISRO radar satellite to offer detailed insights into forests and wetlands

The 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar' (NISAR), an earth observation satellite, will help researchers explore how changes in Earth's forest and wetland ecosystems are affecting the global carbon cycle and influencing climate change. The satellite is an outcome of a collaboration between the American space agency NASA and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Once it launches in early 2024, the NISAR radar satellite mission will offer detailed insights into two types of ecosystems – forests and wetlands – vital to naturally regulating the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that are driving global climate change, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has said.

When in orbit, NISAR's radar systems will scan nearly all of Earth's land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days, it said. "The data will help researchers understand two key functions of both ecosystem types: the capture and the release of carbon." Noting that forests hold carbon in the wood of their trees; wetlands store it in their layers of organic soil,



When in orbit, NISAR's radar systems will scan nearly all of Earth's land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days

> **"The radar technology on NISAR will allow us to get a sweeping perspective of the planet in space and time**
> – Paul Rosen, scientist

JPL said disruption of either system, whether gradual or sudden, can accelerate the release of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere.

Tracking these land-cover changes on a global scale will help researchers study the impacts on the carbon cycle – the processes by which carbon moves between the atmosphere, land, ocean, and living things, it said. "The radar technology on NISAR will allow us to get a sweeping perspective of the planet in space and time," NISAR project scientist at NASA's JPL in Southern California -- Paul Rosen said. "It can give us a reliable view of how Earth's land and ice are changing," he said.

NISAR is an equal collaboration between NASA and ISRO and, for the first time, the two agencies have cooperated on hardware development for an Earth-observing mission. JPL, which is managed for NASA by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, leads the US component of the project and is providing the mission's L-band SAR.

NASA is also providing the radar reflector antenna, the deployable boom, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers, a solid-state recorder, and payload data subsystem. ISRO's UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru is providing the spacecraft bus, the S-band SAR electronics, the launch vehicle, and launch services and satellite mission operations. **– PTI**

Stroke struck: Experts' tips

Shocking statistics show that there is one stroke every 40 seconds and one stroke-related death every four minutes. Keeping this in mind, Manipal Hospitals on the occasion of World Stroke Day 2023 organised an event to spread the word on the importance of identifying stroke signs. Eminent neurologists and neurosurgeons of Manipal Hospitals elaborated on stroke signs and preparedness required. Dr. Murali Srinivasan, Chief of Medical Services, Manipal Hospitals, said, "Stroke poses a huge threat and the impact it has on millions of people in India. Awareness of stroke identification in its early onset is the need of the hour to reduce the risk of death or serious disability." Dr. Pramod Krishnan, HOD & Consultant - Neurology, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, said, "We believe that through awareness sessions such as this, we can bring down the rate of death and permanent disability with our expertise." **– BMB**

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personal

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I, MANJUNATH, aged about 34years, S/O Mahabaleshappa Mannapur, r/a Post: Irkalgada, Tq: & Dist: Koppal- 583237 Karnataka. At the time of issuing PAN Card, Aadhar Card and Voter ID, it was mentioned as MANJUNATH M MANNAPUR. I make the affidavit on oath that MANJUNATH M MANNAPUR and MANJUNATH both names are mine and I am same one person. Vide affedavit dated-25.10.23. Sworn before notary Shivaraj, Kalaburagi.

I, Geetha Shetty W/o Prasad R/o Vara Vasundara Apartment B 101, No 2082 Bharath Housing Society Near NPS School, BSK 6th Stage Bangalore 560061 I state that Geetha and Geetha Shetty name belongs to the same person, Vide Affidavite No IN-KA25535799566905V dated 27.10.2023

I, SHELLY DEY, W/o Animesh Vishwanath Ganguly, R/o A11 504, Provident Harmony Chokkanahalli Main Road Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name as SHELLY ANIMESH GANGULY, vide affidavit dated 25.10.2023, sworn before notary Yankoba, Bengaluru.

I, Gagandeep Gill R/o T-19, B Block, Pyramid Bilberry Apartment, Chokkanahalli, B'lore-64 Changed My Name Gagandeep Dsor to Gagandeep Gill for All Future Purposes

I, Surajkuvar B Bandi S/O. Balaraj B Bandi R/o 33 A, 2nd Corss, 2nd Main, Vittal Nagar Ks Layout, B'lore, 560078 have changed my name to Suraj Kumar B Bandi for all purposes

I, Dalip Singh Gill R/o T-19, B Block, Pyramid Bilberry Apartment, Chokkanahalli, B'lore-64 Changed My Name Dalip Singh to Dalip Singh Gill for All Future Purposes.

I, Rajneet Prasad S/o Bhulan Prasad R/o 31/37, Flat.202 11th cross, Srinivasa temple road, Maruthinagar, Madivala, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to RANJEET PRASAD affidavit Dt.21/10/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Irshad Pasha S/o Anwar Pasha R/o 57/2nd cross parga - thi pura Banashankari B'lore 560070 have changed my name to Irshad A for all purposes

I, Rajesh Ramnarayan R/o A-913, Ganga Vertica Apts, Neeladri Road, Electronic City, B'lore-560100, have changed my Minor son's name from Susheel Rajesh Iyer to Susheel Rajesh for all purposes.

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PRIME PROPERTY

1 year in the life of X

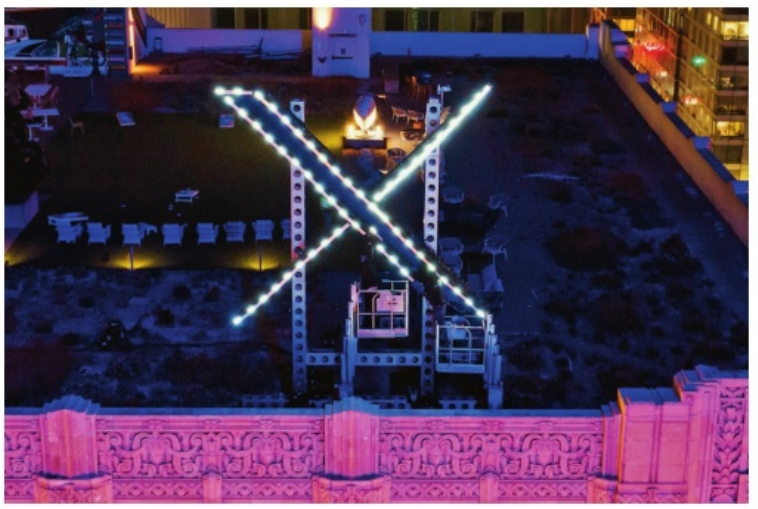
Social media platform struggles with misinformation, advertising, usage decline after Musk takeover

One year ago, billionaire and new owner Elon Musk walked into Twitter's San Francisco headquarters with a white bathroom sink and a grin, fired its CEO and other top executives and began transforming the social media platform into what is now known as X.

X looks and feels something like Twitter, but the more time you spend on it the clearer it becomes that it's merely an approximation. Musk has dismantled core features of what made Twitter, Twitter — its name and blue bird logo, its verification system, its Trust and Safety advisory group. Not to mention content moderation and hate speech enforcement.

He also fired, laid off or lost the majority of its workforce — engineers who keep the site running, moderators who keep it from being overrun with hate, executives in charge of making rules and enforcing them.

The result, Twitter watchers say, has been the end of the platform's role as an imperfect but useful place to find out what's going on in the world. What X will become, and whether Musk can achieve his ambition of turning it into an "everything app", remains as unclear as it was a year ago. "Musk hasn't managed to make a single meaningful improvement to the platform and is no closer to his vision of an 'everything app,' than he was a year ago," said Insider Intelligence analyst Jasmine Enberg. "Instead, X has driven away users, advertisers, and now it has lost its primary value proposition in the social media world: Being a central hub for news." As one of the platform's most popular and prolific users even before he bought the company, Musk had a unique experience on Twitter that is markedly different from how regular users experience it. But many changes he's introduced to X has been based on his own impressions of the site.



Workers install lighting on an 'X' sign atop the company headquarters, formerly known as Twitter, in San Francisco (File photo)

> **When a social platform starts to lose its relevance there are at least some external factors at play, but that's not the case here**

"Musk's treatment of the platform as a tech company that he could remake in his vision rather than a social network fueled by people and ad dollars has been the largest cause of the demise of Twitter," Enberg said.

The blue checkmarks that once signified that the person or institution behind an account was who they said they are — a celebrity, athlete, journalist from global or local publication, a nonprofit agency — now merely shows that someone pays $8 a month for a subscription service that boosts their posts above unchecked users. It's these paying accounts that have been found to spread misinformation on the platform that is often amplified by its algorithms.

It's not just the platform's identity that's on shaky grounds. Twitter was already struggling financially when Musk purchased it for $44 billion in a deal that closed Oct. 27, 2022, and the situation appears more precarious today. Musk took the company private, so its books are no longer public — but in July, the Tesla CEO said the company had lost about half of its advertising revenue and continues to face a large debt load.

"We're still negative cash flow," he posted on the site on July 14, due to about a "50% drop in advertising revenue plus heavy debt load."

Insider Intelligence estimates that X will bring in $1.89 billion in advertising revenue this year, down 54% from 2022. Outside research also shows that people are using X less.

According to research firm Similarweb, global web traffic to Twitter.com was down 14%, year-over-year, and traffic to the ads.twitter.com portal for advertisers was down 16.5%. Performance on mobile was no better, down 17.8% year-over-year based on combined monthly active users for Apple's iOS and Android. "Though the cultural relevance of Twitter was starting to decline," before Musk took it over, "it's as if the platform no longer exists. And it's been a death by a thousand cuts," Enberg said. **AP**

Subscription plan promises boosted replies at X

X on Friday unveiled a $16-a-month subscription plan allowing users who pay more to get the biggest boost for their replies posted at the platform formerly known as Twitter.

The "Premium+" plan is ad-free and designed to provide "the largest reply boost" at X, the company said in a post.

The plan builds on features offered in a Blue subscription plan costing $3 monthly and a Premium Plan priced at $8 monthly, according to X.

Listed features of Premium+ include a blue tick next to names in profiles along with "a visible ID verification label," according to X.

The platform recently started charging new users in New Zealand and the Philippines for basic features such as posting messages in a trial aimed at reducing spam.

Musk has suggested charging all X users, but the idea was widely panned. Industry analysts said it would make X even less appealing to advertisers.

Musk has made a number of controversial changes to the social media firm's management and product since he acquired Twitter a year ago for $44 billion. In the days after his purchase, Musk quickly fired many Twitter executives and took the publicly traded company private. He also laid off most of the San Francisco-based company's workers, cutting ranks to fewer than 1,500 from 8,000. **AFP**

An artist and his AI twin

Accessibility can be an artist's greatest asset. Listeners want to feel close to the musicians they admire and support — and most would jump at the chance to communicate one-on-one. But celebrity schedules rarely allow for that kind of intimacy. So what's the next best thing?

For Mark Tuan, whose new EP "Fallin'" is out Friday, it was creating a digital avatar. The rapper-singer-model and former member of the K-pop boy band Got7 partnered with Soul Machines to create an autonomously automated "digital twin" called "Digital Mark." In doing so, Tuan has become the first celebrity to attach their likeness to OpenAI's GPT integration, artificial intelligence technology that allows fans to engage in one-on-one conversations with Tuan's avatar.

"It's very different. It's not really me, but it is me," he says of Digital Mark. "It's a cool thing, that fans get to interact with him, too."

Greg Cross, CEO of Soul Machines, views Digital Mark as the future of fan engagement.

"While Digital Mark is the first Digital Celebrity Twin of its kind, we're only at the beginning of how autonomous animation will reshape how individuals across the globe interact with celebrities and brands," he said in a statement.

Tuan's hope with Digital Mark is that as the technology advances, so too will fans' relationships with his AI character — and that they'll get to communicate with him in languages beyond English.

Getting Digital Mark to mirror the real Mark Tuan was an extensive process, involving several days of filming in a motion capture bodysuit. Tuan spent a full day demonstrating emotive facial expressions for Digital Mark to learn from, and then considerable time in his studio so "they can get my voice recognition," he says.

Right now, Digital Mark "just stands there ... but maybe in the future, they're going to incorporate me walking around," he says. The technology is in its early days — Tuan says Digital Mark has been spreading "rumors" about a nonexistent tour — but he's excited about how the avatar will evolve. Fans have been using Digital Mark to "troll" Tuan, playfully bugging the AI Mark about things like tour dates and new music — "which is the relationship the fans have with me," he says with a laugh. As for concerns over how this kind of technology could be used in the future, Tuan is cautiously optimistic. "I've seen a lot of movies where robots take over the world," he jokes. "You never really know what's going to happen, but I think it is really cool." **AP**

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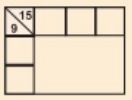
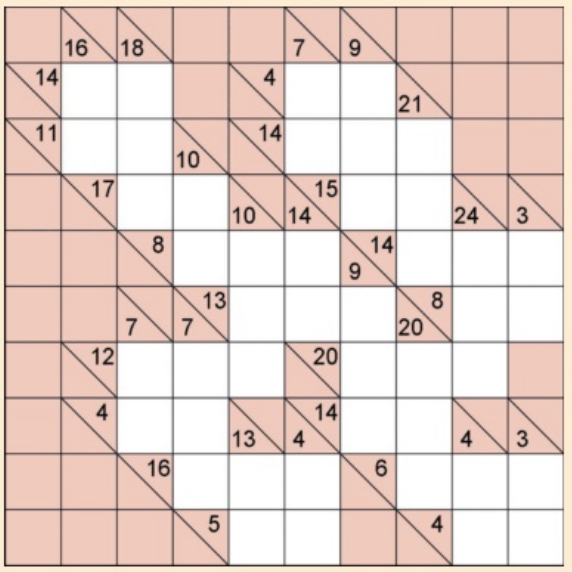
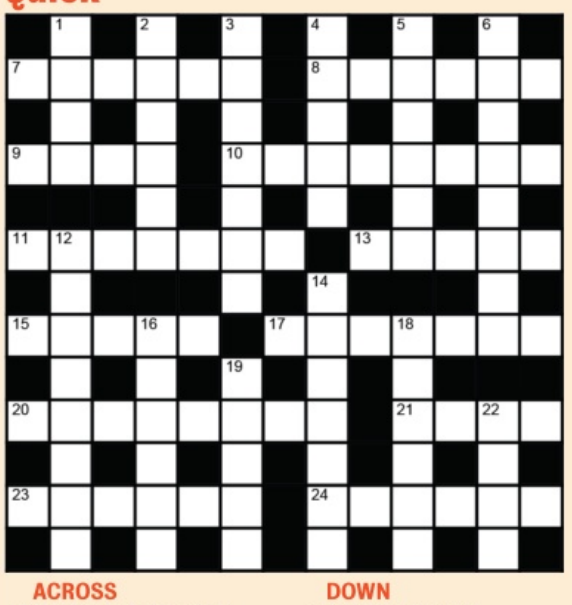


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Rhythm instrument (6)
8 Break down, literally or metaphorically (4,2)
9 Search thoroughly (4)
10 Pledges (8)
11 Smooth part of the golf course (7)
13 Piebald horse (5)
15 Widespread hatred or disgust (5)
17 Waterfall (7)
20 A short heavy club (8)
21 ___ fixe : an obsession ? (4)
23 New York City area (6)
24 Seized suddenly (6)

DOWN

1 Mexican snack (4)
2 Hairdresser (6)
3 Tennis great Pete ___ (7)
4 Exclusive news item (5)
5 Former Karnatka Governor who went on to become India's President (1,1,4)
6 Cut in half (8)
12 Omar of J&K (8)
14 Pouring down (7)
16 Excessive, unjustified (6)
18 Mounts, ascends (6)
19 Considers (5)
22 At all times (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS G

VW PZTM KWM BG GA MDW KRAW VW DLYW XKLEEWF, TG LT MG LIIWXM MDW GEW MDLM RT VLRMREB AGS ZT.

Linemaro

I thought happiness started with an H. Why does mine start with U?

Mindchow

The sky is the daily bread of the eyes

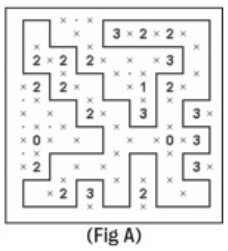
Joke of the day

Foreign aid: The transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries

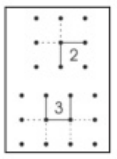
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

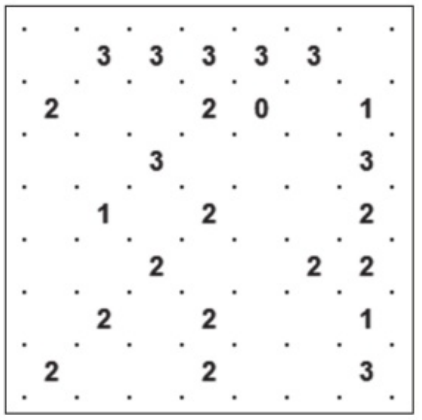


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

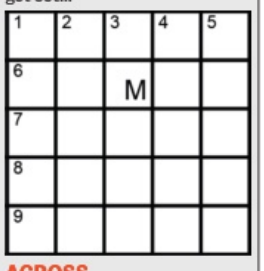


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Slush; 6 It mil; 7 A alum; 8 Reman; 9 Rings

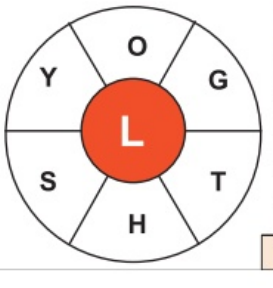
DOWN

1 Lungs; 2 R Hail; 3 I a mum; 4 Milne; 5 Tsars

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

1	10	7	16
28	19	22	13
25	34	31	40
?	43	46	37



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1			2		7			9
	2	7	4		1	5	3	
	6	4		8		1	7	
	1						6	
	7	5		1		8	9	
	4	2	6		3	9	8	
6			5		9			7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 32
6 8 9 9

Medium = 2
1 2 4 5

Hard = 50
1 5 6 4

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

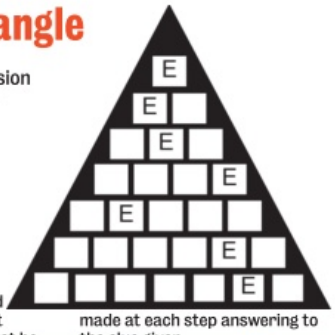
Differences: 1. Ann is lower. 2. Missing section of fence is moved. 3. Chest protector strap is lower. 4. Bush is missing. 5. Hair is shorter. 6. Mouth is open.

Riddler

A snail creeps 10 feet up a wall during the daytime, then falls asleep. It wakes up the next morning and discovers it slipped down 6 feet. If this happens each day, how many days will it take to reach the top of a 20 foot wall?

Alpha triangle

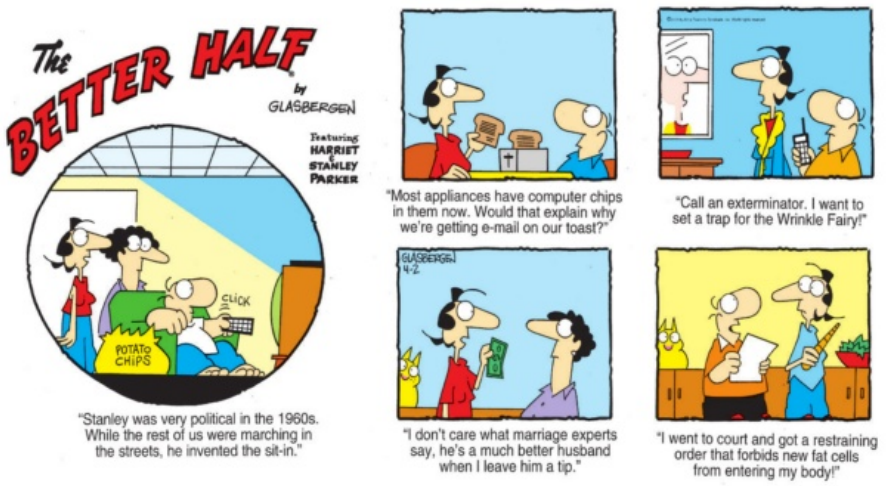
1 Second vowel
2 Surprised expression
3 Feminine pronoun
4 Rabbit relative
5 Tried in court
6 More challenging
7 Saver; miser



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
CLICK
POTATO CHIPS
"Stanley was very political in the 1960s. While the rest of us were marching in the streets, he invented the sit-in."
"Most appliances have computer chips in them now. Would that explain why we're getting e-mail on our toast?"
"Call an exterminator. I want to set a trap for the Wrinkle Fairy!"
"I don't care what marriage experts say, he's a much better husband when I leave him a tip."
"I went to court and got a restraining order that forbids new fat cells from entering my body!"

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
JASPER'S FAMILY WENT TO AUSTRALIA AND SAW CROCODILES FROM AN AIRBOAT!
THE BOAT HAD A BIG AIRPLANE PROPELLER ON THE BACK, AND IT WENT, LIKE, A MILLION MILES AN HOUR!
IT GOT SO WINDY THAT HIS MOM'S BIKINI TOP BLEW OFF, AND HIS DAD HAD TO DIVE INTO THE RIVER TO GET IT!
WHEN HE FOUND IT, A FRIENDLY DOLPHIN TOWED HIM BACK TO THE BOAT SO THEY WOULDN'T BE LATE FOR THEIR HOT-AIR BALLOON RIDE.
BUT, THIS IS FUN, TOO.
MY MOSQUITO BITE JUST GOT A MOSQUITO BITE.

AN ACCIDENTAL BITE BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER HAS GIVEN TEENAGER PETER PARKER SUPER POWERS, AND TRANSFORMED HIM INTO--
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
A MURDEROUS MASKED MENACE OR A MODERN-DAY CRUSADER?
EVEN BEFORE YOU SHOWED, MJ, I'D DECIDED TO GO AFTER KILLGRAVE AND SPIDER-MAN.
BUT HOW DO WE FIND 'EM?
I'M GOING TO LET YOU IN ON A SECRET, LUKE.
SPIDER-MAN GAVE ME THIS LITTLE THING HE CALLS A SPIDER-TRACER...
IT'S LIKE A GPS, SO I CAN ALWAYS LOCATE HIM!
YOU MUST REALLY RATE WITH THE WALL-CRAWLER!
HOW DOES YOUR HUSBAND FEEL ABOUT THAT SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP?
OH... ACTUALLY-PETER KNOWS SPIDEY, TOO!
NOW I REMEMBER! I'VE SEEN HIS NAME ON ALL THOSE PICS IN THE DAILY BUGLE!
WE'D BETTER GET GOING!
MEANWHILE...
YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW, MY WEB-WEAVING FRIEND...
I'VE DECIDED WHAT CRIME YOU'RE ABOUT TO COMMIT FOR ME!
THE WRONG ARM OF THE LAW!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be seeking peace of mind. But the moon's blessings may help you focus yourself. Investments in property and other assets are advised to be avoided. You may have some happy moments in your domestic life, but it is advised to avoid arrogance and ego with your spouse. Disputes with the business partner are likely to be resolved.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. A decision in a legal matter may come in your favour. Your boss may be happy because of your hard work and dedication; you may get new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Singles may find their soulmate.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life, and there may be good understanding between you and your spouse.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying worthless stuff, which may affect your savings. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics; otherwise, there might be a breakup.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon; your destiny is likely to be with you. Today, you may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you. You are likely to go on short work-related trips. Some good news may come from your sibling. You may plan to renovate your house or office, where your creativity will be tested.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be happy, and you may plan to buy some creative stuff that may improve your lifestyle. You may also spend on your friends and family members. You may plan to make investments in assets. Singles may find a good match, and lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today; you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds are likely to get some support from their family members and friends for marriage.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will feel dull and unhappy. You are required to make a proper balance between expenditures and earnings. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking, which may affect your health. Students can start planning for their higher studies. Love birds are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may make new plans in terms of business, and your colleagues may be with you to implement your plans. You may recover your stuck money from your clients, which may boost liquidity in the business. After late evening, you may have some anxiety, which may affect your sound sleep.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a good day. In the business, you may get new clients, which will be helpful in terms of growth in terms of profits. Singles are likely to find a good match. In domestic life, you must avoid hiding anything from your spouse; otherwise, it will create a gap in your relationship. Job seekers are likely to get a new job, and there are chances of promotions in their current job.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are more religious; you may plan to visit some religious place to find peace of mind. You may donate some amount to a charity or spiritual place. People around you may get help and support from you in terms of financial or moral support. You may enjoy every moment with satisfaction and patience.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may have a dull feeling. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. Your focus is tested many times; you should try to avoid scattering towards your goals. It is advised not to invest in worthless stuff. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics. It is advised to avoid overnight travel and come back home on time.

KIDZONE

Karan Mohan, 10 Years, Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir

Ruhi Matheen, 10 Years, Tawakkal International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
189+7-49
27-49
-22

BULL'S EYE
GHOSTLY, holy, hotly, lost, slog, slot, sloth

STRIKE OUT

K	I	S	S		T	O	T		B	E	A	R		
C		N			E		I			T		E		
A	M	O	R	A	L		B	E	D	A	U	B		
B		M	E	W	E	R	S		N		N		M	
E	V	E	N	S	O		O	A	R	A	G	E		
H		L	O	T		N		E	E	L		M		
T		R	A	B	I	D	L	Y		R				
N		S	A	S		D		G	O	D		E		
O	N	T	A	P	E		I	N	F	E	C	T		
T		R		A	L	A	M	O		H		R		
A	F	E	A	S	T		A	L	A	S	K	A		
P		V		S		I			A		H			
A	B	A	T		I	O	M		A	L	E	C		

FAST FIVE

S	H	U	L	S
L		M		T
U		A	M	A
N	A	M	E	R
G	R	I	N	S

RIDDLER
Four days. Day 1: up to 10, down to 4 Day 2: up to 14, down to 8 Day 3: up to 18, down to 12 Day 4: up to 22 (20 really) and done

QUICK

T		B		S		S		V		B				
M	A	R	A	C		C	A	V	E	I	N			
H	A	R	L	E	M		N	A	B	B	E	D		
B	L	U	D		G	E	O	N		I		D	E	E
	U		N		D		I		L					
O	D	I	U	M		C	A	S	C	A	D	E		
	B				S		R				E			
F	A	I	R	W	A	Y		P	I	N	T	O		
	E		R			P			R		C			
C	O	M	B		P	R	O	M	I	S	E	S		
	C		R		M		O		G		S			
M	A	R	A	C	A	V	E	I	N					
H		Y		S		S		V		B				

SUDOKU

1	5	8	2	3	7	6	4	9
9	2	7	4	6	1	5	3	8
4	3	6	8	9	5	7	1	2
3	6	4	9	8	2	1	7	5
8	1	9	7	5	4	2	6	3
2	7	5	3	1	6	8	9	4
7	9	3	1	2	8	4	5	6
5	4	2	6	7	3	9	8	1
6	8	1	5	4	9	3	2	7

MENSA PUZZLE
52: start at the top left corner and work along the top line, then back along the second line, etc., adding nine then deducting three.

QUOTE UNCODE
We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us.

ALPHA TRIANGLE
E, Eh, Her, Hare, Heard, Harder, Hoarder.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 6 + 9 + 8 = 32
2 - 5 + 4 + 1 = 2
Medium
Hard
4 + 6 x 1 x 5 = 50

LOOP

KAKURO

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Musical journey
Suhana Khan is all set to make her debut with Zoya Akhtar's 'The Archies'. The makers of the film, have dropped a fun making video of the song 'Sunoh'

Action thriller

Actor Jason Statham will topline the upcoming action film "Levon's Trade", to be directed by "Suicide Squad" director David Ayer.

Sylvester Stallone, Hollywood veteran and Stathan's co-star from "The Expendables" movies, has adapted the film's screenplay from the novel of the same name by comic author Chuck Dixon, reported entertainment news outlet Deadline.

It marks Stallone's first screenplay since "Rambo: Last Blood" in 2019 and "Creed II" in 2018.

"Levon's Trade" will chart how Levon Cade (Statham) left his "profession" behind him to go 'straight' and work in construction. He wants to live a simple life and be a good father to his daughter.

But when his boss's teenage daughter Jenny vanishes, he's called upon to re-employ the skills that made him a legendary figure in the shadowy world of black ops. His hunt for the missing college student takes him deep into the heart of a sinister criminal conspiracy, creating a chain reaction that will threaten his new way of life, as per the official plotline.

The film, which Black Bear and BlockFilm are shopping at the American Film Market (AFM), is expected to start filming in March 2024 in London.

It will be produced by Ayer and Chris Long for Cedar Park Entertainment, alongside Statham for Punch Palace Productions, Stallone for Balboa Productions, John Friedberg for Black Bear and Bill Block for BlockFilm.

– PTI

Fitness feats

Disha Patani shares glimpse of her workout session

Actor Disha Patani has not only amazed everyone with her fashion game but also with her fitness regime.

Disha usually shares her workout videos with her fans, in which she can be seen doing amazing action sequences.

Taking to Instagram story on Saturday, Disha shared a new video from her training sessions.

The clip showcased her practising flying kick at the gym. She was wearing a white sports tank top and grey joggers.

Today, Disha is an inspiration for many, especially to the youth, and her social media posts inspire many. The actress never misses a day in the gym despite her busy schedule.

Meanwhile, on the film front, Disha will share screen space with Siddharth Malhotra in 'Yodha', which will be out on December 8. The film will clash with Katrina Kaif's 'Merry Christmas'.

Disha also has 'Kalki 2898 AD' in her pipeline. Stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Prabhas and Deepika Padukone also headline the film.

Helmed by Nag Ashwin and produced by Vyjayanthi Movies, Kalki 2898 AD has a global release date of January 12, 2024. The film will be in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and English.

–ANI

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